

House File 301 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 301

BY GASKILL

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the definition of intelligent mail barcode
2 and mailed absentee ballots.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 53.17, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
2 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. The sealed return envelope may be mailed to the
4 commissioner by the registered voter or by the voter's
5 designee. If mailed by the voter's designee, the envelope must
6 be mailed within seventy-two hours of retrieving it from the
7 voter or within time to be postmarked or, if applicable, to
8 have the intelligent mail barcode traced to a date of entry
9 into the federal mail system not later than the day before
10 the election, whichever is earlier. For the purposes of this
11 section, "intelligent mail barcode" means any barcode that may
12 be scanned or otherwise read to determine when an envelope
13 entered the federal mail system.

14 Sec. 2. Section 53.22, subsection 6, paragraph b, Code 2019,
15 is amended to read as follows:

16 b. Absentee ballots voted under [this subsection](#) shall be
17 delivered to the commissioner no later than the time the polls
18 are closed on election day. If the ballot is returned by mail
19 the return envelope must be received by the time the polls
20 close, or be clearly postmarked by an officially authorized
21 postal service or bear an intelligent mail barcode traceable
22 to a date of entry into the federal mail system not later than
23 the day before the election and received by the commissioner no
24 later than the time established for the canvass by the board
25 of supervisors for that election. For the purposes of this
26 section, "intelligent mail barcode" means any barcode that may
27 be scanned or otherwise read to determine when an envelope
28 entered the federal mail system.

29 EXPLANATION

30 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
31 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

32 This bill relates to mailed absentee ballots. To be counted,
33 a mailed absentee ballot must be sent the day before the
34 election, as verified by a postmark or an intelligent mail
35 barcode. The bill defines "intelligent mail barcode" to mean

H.F. 301

- 1 any barcode that may be read to determine when an absentee
- 2 ballot envelope entered the federal mail system.